

OCALA EVENING STAR

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

BITTINGER & CARROLL, PROPRIETORS

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A GOOD EXAMPLE

Friday, Oct. 8th, 1915, being a legal holiday in the state of Florida (Farmers' Day), the undersigned banks of this city will be closed for business on that day. This holiday falling on Friday the undersigned banks will remain open until three o'clock on Thursday, October 7th.

The Commercial Bank.
The Ocala National Bank.
The Munroe & Chambliss National Bank.

The Star highly approves of the action of the banks in this respect. Let all our citizens join to make this occasion a success. It will pay.

BOARD OF TRADE

There are a number of important public affairs to be attended to at the Board of Trade meeting this evening, and a large attendance is necessary.

First and foremost is the preparation for the meeting of the Confederate Veterans Oct. 27 to 29. This is pressing, as much is to be done, and the time is short.

Second, more immediate, and almost as important are the arrangements for Farmers' Day, which is right at hand.

A number of other matters will come up, and all need the attention of a good-sized and enthusiastic attendance.

EXPECTED TO LIVE UP TO IT

As will be seen by the announcement elsewhere, the railroad commission has granted the request of the Seaboard and Coast Line for a delay of six months in beginning work on the union passenger station in Ocala. As the announcement states, the action of the informal meeting of citizens held last Wednesday night had some weight with the commission in granting this delay. We now expect to see the Coast Line and Seaboard make good the promises of their officials in regard to crossings. They can't set about it any too soon.

PRESIDENT OSBORNE

At the meeting of the directors of the Ocala Commercial Bank Tuesday afternoon, Mr. E. A. Osborne was elected president, to succeed Mr. Geo. J. Blitch, who resigned some weeks ago.

Mr. Osborne is a shrewd and conservative citizen, with broad business experience and an extensive acquaintance with people and conditions of this part of the country. His election adds prestige to the already strong and popular Commercial Bank.

ROONEY ON THE ROUNDS

Secretary Rooney is hustling lively to obtain the pledges of those who will entertain the Confederate Veterans at their meeting here three weeks from today. Its duty and will probably be the pleasure of the whole town to help on this.

OCALA ATHLETES

The members of the Ocala Athletic Club held a meeting the other day and found themselves in good shape for the season, with a large and enthusiastic membership and money in the treasury.

Norton Davis was elected captain of the football team and will line up the active young men who will win fame for Ocala on the gridiron.

A special meeting will be held Friday night, at which the basketball team for the season will be formed.

A quantity of new and up-to-date apparatus will be ordered for the gymnasium, and the members of the club have reason to look forward to a pleasant and profitable season.

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and for the convenience of the reader I am going to classify them:

The chosen few: Mayor Robertson, Colonel R. F. Rogers, Messrs. Meffert and Knight, Nugent, John Taylor, T. T. Munroe, Jake Brown, R. T. Adams, R. R. Carroll, J. H. Benjamin, Sidney Haile and Malcolm Williams, all plain citizens, acting in no official capacity, that is, except Messrs. Haile and Williams, they really had authority to be there—they belonged.

The opposition: Mr. George Rentz, Dr. J. E. Chace, Mr. H. C. Jones and Mr. B. H. Seymour.

I understand that this famous meeting was gotten up by the railroads themselves. They sent their agents around to invite the guests and the meeting was presided over, as far as I can judge from the reports, by Messrs. Rogers and Benjamin, and Messrs. Brand and Parsons. I don't believe there would have been a dissenting vote in the whole famous gathering if Messrs. Rentz, Chace, Jones and Seymour hadn't been invited by mistake. Pretty near a railroad meeting, wasn't it?

As I stated a while ago, is certainly looks to me as if somebody had something put over on them.

It seems to me that this is the last straw. If you people propose to stay tied up in a sack and let somebody else hold the string, go to it. Take my advice, though, and get out before the lid is nailed on, because you will never have a chance after that. How long do you propose to let the "chosen few" dictate to you as to what you shall not have? Are you going to put up with it forever? Don't you ever propose to kick or fight or interpose any objection at all? Are you going to have the breath smothered out of you and take it? It seems to me that the times demand a change. The steam roller tactics have been operating in this town long enough, and there is only one of three things that can be done, run, get "squealed," or put out the fire. Which are you going to do? Do you realize that nearly all of the young men of this town are scouting around over the state looking for new locations? Why do you suppose this is? Every one of them will tell you that he would rather live in Ocala if he could make a living here. Why is that? In the words of Uncle Remus: "Answer me dat."

What are you going to do about it? C. L. Anderson.

OCALA FRATERNAL ORDERS

MARION-DUNN MASONIC LODGE

Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19, F. & A. M., meets on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month at 8:00 o'clock, until further notice.
A. E. Burnett, W. M.
Jake Brown, Secretary. Ad

CHAPTER NO. 13, R. A. M.

Regular convocations of the Ocala Chapter No. 13, R. A. M., on the fourth Friday in every month at 8 p. m. H. S. Wesson, H. P. Jake Brown, Sec'y.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

Ocala Chapter, No. 29, O. E. S., meets at Yonge's hall the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month at 7:30 o'clock.
Mrs. Emily Webb, W. M.
Mrs. Lillian Simmons, Sec'y.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

Fort King Camp No. 14 meets at the K. of P. hall at 7:30 p. m. every second and fourth Friday. Visiting sovereigns are always welcome.
J. W. Lamar, C. C.
Chas. K. Sage, Clerk.

ODD FELLOWS

Tulula Lodge No. 22, I. O. O. F., meets in Yonge's Hall every Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. A warm welcome always extended to visiting brethren.
M. M. Little, N. G.
W. L. Colbert, Secretary.

OCALA LODGE NO. 286, B. P. O. E.

Ocala Lodge No. 286, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, meets the second and fourth Tuesday evenings in each month. Visiting brethren always welcome. Club house opposite postoffice, east side.

I. H. von Engelken, E. R.
Nelson Geise, Secretary. At.

OCALA TEMPLE

PYTHIAN SISTERS
The Ocala Temple Lodge No. 28 Pythian Sisters, meets every Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 at Castle Hall, west of courthouse. Visiting members are cordially invited to meet with us.
Lena Tompkins, M. E. C.
Kate B. Howell, M. R.

CONCORDIA LODGE F. U. OF A.

Concordia Lodge, Fraternal Union of America, meets in Yonge's Hall on the second Thursday evening of each month. Geo. L. Taylor, F. M. Chas. K. Sage, Secretary. Ad.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Ocala Lodge No. 19. Conventions held every Monday at 7:30 p. m. at Castle Hall, over the James Carlisle drugstore. A cordial welcome to visiting brothers. C. B. Howell, C. C. Chas. K. Sage, K. of R. S. Ad.

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Suggestion From Dr. Blitch as to the Best Way to Celebrate "Farmers' Day"

We are indebted to Dr. Blitch of Blitchton for the suggestion that we have a work-day and clean up the fair grounds, preparatory to getting everything in order for the fair which is now so near.

The fair management agrees with Dr. Blitch that such a getting-together of the men of the county will result in much good to all concerned. With this in view they have set the day designated as "Farmers' Day" by the governor, Friday, October 8th, as the most fit time for such a meeting.

The day designated as "Farmers' Day" is for the farmer and so is the Marion County Fair. Brother farmer do you know that it would be impossible to have a fair without you? Ocala men, do you know we cannot have a fair without your staunch support.

This fair is for the good and enjoyment of all, so let us get together at our fair grounds as early as possible on the morning of October 8th and put things in good shape and save to our association the money that would have to be paid out for this work.

We very much desire that all parts of the county should be represented, and would especially like to have the chairmen of the different committees, in order to discuss plans for the completion of the committee work.

Bring your lunches and come armed with forks, rakes and hoes. We can also use to good advantage three or four teams with wagons.

Don't forget the date, and every man in the county who can possibly do so be on hand. If you can't come, send some one in your place.

Marion-Fair Association.

REGARDING SOFT PHOSPHATE

(Florida Grower)

Editor, Florida Grower: In your issue of July 24th you published the following: "What do you think of soft phosphate as an economical fertilizer? Answer—I have never used it, and there is no scientific data on its use in Florida. The reports from other states are worthless to us, since their soil conditions are so different from ours. However, you have before you the verdict of the Florida public. Years ago, soft phosphate was used to quite an extent in field, garden and grove, especially the grove. Mines were in operation, and it was common in the market. All kinds of crop production increased steadily, but the use of soft phosphate died out so that the mines were all closed for years. Do you suppose the public dropped a good thing?"

I know that it is not your intention to do any one an injustice, and that it is your desire to be as great a benefit to Florida growers as is possible. I therefore ask the privilege of commenting, with the best of feeling, on this answer.

You state that there is no scientific data on the use of soft phosphate. That depends on what is meant by "scientific data." If the reports from some of our best chemists and most practical farmers and orange growers is considered "scientific data," such data is in abundance. I refer you to Dr. H. G. Bystra, chemist, of Brooksville, Fla. His work is accepted not only in Florida, but in the European market as final. Dr. Bystra is not only a chemist, but also a practical farmer and orange grower. His opinion is that soft phosphate is "unsurpassed" as a source of phosphoric acid for use on oranges and all other fruit trees, and for all crops needing phosphoric acid. I also refer you to such practical growers as Dr. W. H. Conibear and Mr. E. L. Kinney, of Lakeland; Mr. W. A. Fulton of Brooksville; Col. Thomas Palmer, C. M. Knott and Geo. N. Benjamin, of Tampa. I could also name others by the score who have used soft phosphate and prefer it.

Now, as to "reports from other states being worthless" to us on account of different conditions: If those reports were from one locality, or even one state, it might do to say that they were worthless, but when they cover territory from Texas to Massachusetts, including such states as Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island and several others, in fact nearly all of the states which have real, practical experimental stations, then it will not do to say their opinions are worthless to the growers of this state. So far as I know, every state which has carried on any extensive experiments with raw or untreated phosphate recommend it in the highest terms. It has been tried in every character of soil to be found in the United States, and has found almost universal approval.

As to the soft phosphate mines being abandoned years ago, I happened to be rather familiar with the circumstances connected with that, tho was in nowise financially interested in it. In 1892 (or 1893) Messrs. Wilber McCoy and M. C. Rerdell started the phosphate business by opening up the "Bonnie May" mines. The results from the use of this product were phenomenally good. The freeze of 1895, following the depression from 1893, completely paralyzed all industry and closed down not only their mines, but all others who had entered the field following them. An-

other thing in this connection which cast a damper on the industry was the amount of worthless sand and clay palmed off on the public as soft phosphate. Taking advantage of the demand created by the sale and use of genuine soft phosphate, a great deal of ordinary sand and clay was sold as soft phosphate.

Among the dozens of concerns mining and selling soft phosphate there was one in the central part of the state. It was probably the strongest financially in the field, and sold more soft phosphate possibly more than any other, and at a price lower than genuine soft phosphate could be mined. This concern sold as soft phosphate the entire over-burden of sand and clay, and all of the matrix and mixture found in the phosphate beds. Those who used this worthless sand and clay (sold to them as soft phosphate) very naturally got no return. I have in mind a particular case that is typical. A representative of the "Bonnie May" mines tried to sell Dr. W. T. Whitley, of Bartow, soft phosphate. He stated that he had bought soft phosphate and tried it, and that it was absolutely worthless. The "Bonnie May" gave him five sacks. He reluctantly put it on one of his groves. This was in the spring. The following fall and winter he bought from the "Bonnie May" mines over one hundred tons of soft phosphate.

This year I have seen soft phosphate used on corn, side by side with high-grade corn special fertilizer, costing four times as much per ton. The yield from soft phosphate was more than double that the adjoining plot, where corn special was used, an equal quantity of each being used. From what I know of soft phosphate I do not believe that the farmer or grower can do better than buy soft phosphate which carries not less than 60 per cent of bone phosphate of lime, and I believe the proper use of soft phosphate means more to the farmer and grower of Florida today than any other one thing.

Thanking you for the courtesy of publishing this letter, I am,
Yours very truly,
L. S. Morrow.

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